

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 NSCE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 DHA-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /109 W

-----044670 021530Z /44

P R 021200Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WAHDC PRIORITY 2594

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

CNO WASHDC

CINCEUR

DLIELC LACKLAND AFB TEXAS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LOME 2068

NSC FOR THORNTON

DEPT PASS AID/AFR FOR GOLER BUTCHER

EUCOM FOR J4/7

ABIDJAN FOR DAO AND REDSO

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NIAMEY FOR RDO

USUN FOR AMB YOUNG

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS SHUM EAID PINT TO XA

SUBJ: EYADEMA OF US MILITARY TRAINING FOR TOGO AND OTHER TOPICS

REF: A STATE 178007 DTG 29163,Z JUL 77

B. AMBASSADOR PALMER-JERRY ALBERT (EUCOM) TELECON 8/1/77

1. INTRODUCTION: I DRAFTED A LETTER TO PRESIDENT EYADEMA AUG 1 INFORMING HIM OF US OFFER OF MILITARY TRAINING (REF A) POINTING OUT THAT THIS WAS FORTUITOUS ONE-TIME OCCURRENCE RESULTING FROM RE-PROGRAMMING FY 77 IMET FUNDS. LETTER ALSO NOTED I WOULD HAVE TO TALK WITH HIM ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS THIS OFFER SINCE TRAINING CAME UNDER HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING PROVISIONS 1976 SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION. AT END OF DAY I CALLED GHQ AND LEARNED THAT COLONEL ASSILA, SECOND-IN-COMMAND TOGOLESE ARMED FORCES, HAD DEPARTED FOR HIS MONDAY SESSION KIDNEY DIALYSIS, WHEREUPON I CALLED MILITARY CAMP AND OFFICER OF DAY INVITED ME TO BRING LETTER THERE AND HE WOULD SEE IF PRESIDENT COULD RECEIVE ME. AT CAMP I DISCOVERED THAT GRADUATION PARTY FOR TOGOLESE 1977 CLASS OF MIDWIVES WAS IN FULL SWING, SO I TRIED TO ESCAPE INTO THE NIGHT; HOWEVER, I WAS APPREHENDED AND CONDUCTED TO HEAD TABLE TO SIT BESIDE PRESIDENT FOR THREE HOURS OF MIDWIFE HIJINKS. SEEING PAINED EXPRESSION ON MY FACE, EYADEMA LAUGHED AND PLIED ME WITH CHAMPAGNE AND INVITED ME, WITH IRONY, TO SHARE HIS MONDAY EVENING WITH HIM.

2. MILITARY TRAINING: EYADEMA WAS VERY PLEASED WITH OFFER OF TWO SLOTS IN SEPTEMBER COURSE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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DEFENSE MANAGEMENT COURSE. HE SAID THE IDEA OF MANAGEMENT TRAINING WAS PARTICIPATLY APPPOSITE. I EXPLAINED THAT THE FUNDING WAS PROBABLY RESULT OF FALLOUT FROM ETHIOPIAN PROGRAM AND COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED TO BE THE COMMENCEMENT OF ANY SORT OF LONGTERM TRAINING PROGRAM. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FUNDS HAD RESULTED FROM THE SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF 1977, BUT THAT TOGO WAS GRATEFUL IN ANY CASE BECAUSE THE MANAGEMENT TRAINING REPRESENTED THE FIRST US OFFER OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE OF ANY TYPE SINCE TOGOLESE INDEPENDENCE. HE WAS INTRIGUED THAT EUCOM (REF B) HAD ALREADY CONTACTED THE EMBASSY ABOUT THE PROJECT AND AMUSED THAT CNO WOULD HAVE OVERALL CONTROL OF TRAINING PROGRAM. I WILL FOLLOW UP ON DETAILS WITH GHQ.

3. CARTER ADMINISTRATION MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA: EYADEMA SAID HE WAS DELIGHTED THAT THE USG HAD MOVED TO CONFRONT THE RUSSIAN DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE IN AFRICA. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT HIS CONGRATULATIONS BE EXTENDED TO PRESIDENT CARTER FOR THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE ACTIONS THE US IS ABOUT TO TAKE TO HELP SUDAN, SOMALIA AND CHAD. IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID IT WAS NECESSARY ALSO TO DEFEAT THE SOVIET IN ETHIOPIA. PARENTHETICALLY, HE SAID

IF ETHIOPIA LOSES ERITREA AND OGADEN, MENGISTU WOULD FALL
AND OPEN THE WAY TO THE REMOVAL OF SOVIET INFLUENCE ALTOGETHER
IN ETHIOPIA. EYADEMA SAID HIS MODEST EFFORTS IN THE OAU
CONTEXT TO HELP MEDIATE THE LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN CONFLICT

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SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 NSCE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 DHA-02
OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 EB-08 OES-07 /124 W
-----044760 021533Z /44

P R 021200Z AUG 77

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2595

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SHOULD BE CONSIDERE A PART OF THE GENERAL STRATEGY OF
COMBATting THE EXTENSION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA.
I TOOK UP THIS THEME AND SUGGESTED THAT US POLICY WAS
TO WORK WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE GENERAL AFRO-ARAB
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CONSENSUS THAT SOVIET EXPANSION WAS INIMICAL TO AFRICAN INTERESTS. HE AGREED BUT ADDED WITH SOME ASPERITY THAT THE US SHOULD NOT IGNORE THE FACT THE SOVIETS WERE PUTTING ARMOR INTO BENIN. HE SAID: "IS IT FOR USE AGAINST NIGERIA? NO, IT IS TO BE USED AGAINST TOGO*" I TURNED THE SUBJECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS: I SAID THAT MY LETTER HAD POINTED OUT THAT THE NEW TRAINING PROGRAM, EVEN IF ONE-TIME, WOULD REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE A REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE TO CONGRESS. HE SAID THAT THE PROSPECT DID NOT TROUBLE HIM. HE HAD SEEN TO IT THAT ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS HAD BEEN RELEASED, HOWEVER HE STILL HAD ABOUT EIGHT "PROFESSORS" UNDER DETENTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT ASSOCIATION FOR A MARXIST TOGO DISTRIBUTION OF IDEOLOGICAL TRACTS. HE SAID HE WAS GENERALLY SATISFIED THAT LEGITIMATE CHARGES EXISTED AGAINST SUCH PERSONS AS WERE PRESENTLY DETAINED. AT THIS POINT, I BRIEFED THE PRESIDENT ON THE US HUMAN RIGHTS LAW. I STRESSED THE IMPLACABLE OPPOSITION OF US POLICY AND LAW TO TORTURE, PROLONGED POLITICAL DETENTION AND POLITICAL ASSASSINATION. EYADEMA SAID TOGO COULD STAND UP TO INTERNATIONAL SCRUTINY IN SUCH MATTERS.

5. AID: EYADEMA SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE US DELIVERY OF EMERGENCY FOOD. I SAID THE EMBASSY HAD TAKEN A CAREFUL LOOK AT THE ORGANIZATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE FOOD DELIVERY AND THINGS SEEMED TO BE GOING WELL. HE SAID HE HAD PUT THE ARMY IN CHARGE OF THE EFFORT AND HE TOO WAS PLEASED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM. I SAID THE EMBASSY HAD SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED TO DATE EFFORTS OF LOW-LEVEL GOT PERSONNEL TO EXPAND FOOD DISTRIBUTION FROM THE FOUR MOST-SERIOUSLY AFFECTED CIRCUMSCRIPTIONS (DAPAON, MANGO, KANTE AND TAGLIBO) TO OTHER AREAS. I SAID THE SITUATION APPEARED SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS IN THE SOUTH, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE DROUGHT, THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ESTABLISH GOT CREDENTIALS TO CARRY OUT AGREED-UPON PROGRAMS SO THAT THE USG COULD BE CONVINCED OF THE GOT'S "SERIEUX" AND EFFICIENCY. IN THIS CONNECTION, I SAID THAT THE EMBASSY HAD REQUESTED THAT US AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS COME TO TOGO TO WORK WITH TOGOLESE EXPERTS TO ASSESS DROUGHT-RELATED CROP DAMAGE AND SHORT AND MEDIUM-TERM

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BUTION FROM THE FOUR MOST-SERIOUSLY AFFECTED CIRCUMSCRIPTIONS (DAPAON, MANGO, KANTE AND TAGLIBO) TO OTHER AREAS. I SAID THE SITUATION APPEARED SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS IN THE SOUTH, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE DROUGHT, THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ESTABLISH GOT CREDENTIALS TO CARRY OUT AGREED-UPON PROGRAMS SO THAT THE USG COULD BE CONVINCED OF THE GOT'S "SERIEUX" AND EFFICIENCY. IN THIS CONNECTION, I SAID THAT THE EMBASSY HAD REQUESTED THAT US AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS COME TO TOGO TO WORK WITH TOGOLESE EXPERTS TO ASSESS DROUGHT-RELATED CROP DAMAGE AND SHORT AND MEDIUM-TERM

FOOD REQUIREMENTS. EYADEMA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM AND HAD POINTED OUT TO HIS GOVERNMENT THAT THE FOOD PROBLEM WAS SERIOUS AND THAT TOGO SHOULD CARRY OUT THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE EMBASSY IN ORDER TO TRY TO GET MORE THAN THE ALREADY-DELIVERED 5300 TONS. (I ALSO ALERTED EYADEMA TO THE FACT THAT USAID PROJECTS FOR SEED MULTIPLICATION AND AN ONCHOCERASIS FEASIBILITY STUDY WOULD SOON BE COMING TO HIM FOR APPROVAL. I GAVE HIM A STATUS REPORT ON THE FAMILY HEALTH CENTER PROJECT TOO.)

6. THE PLAY'S THE THING: DURING THE DINNER CONVERSATION, TWO MORALITY PLAYS WERE GIVEN BY THE GRADUATING MIDWIVES. BOTH WERE WRITTEN BY PROFESSOR VOVOR OF THE RPT CENTRAL COMMITTEE, WHO IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE MIDWIVES SCHOOL. THE FIRST WAS A SARDONIC COMMENTARY ON TOGOLESE MORALITY AND ABSTRACT JUSTICE. THE SECOND WAS A BITTERLY HUMOROUS ATTACK ON GUREAUCRACY AND THE APING OF FRENCH METHODS. TO THE FOREIGN OBSERVER BOTH SEEMED FULL OF MOLIERE-LIKE MORDANT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INNUENDO. RE THE SECOND PLAY, MINISTER OF EDUCATION KERIM, SEATED ON MY LEFT, SAID TO ME " C'EST TROP DUR, TROP AMER." EYADEMA WAS AMUSED, HOWEVER, AND GLEEFULLY DIRECTED JIBES AT HIS MINISTERS. IN FAIRNESS IT MUST ALSO BE SAID HE LAUGHED AT SALLIES THAT WHISTLED FAIRLY CLOSE BY HIS OWN EARS. PRESUMABLY PROFESSOR VOVOR'S INSURANCE IS PAID UP. PALMER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY TRAINING, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LOME02068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770276-0660
Format: TEL
From: LOME
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708107/aaaadmwu.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1421179
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EYADEMA OF US MILITARY TRAINING FOR TOGO AND OTHER TOPICS
TAGS: MASS, SHUM, EAID, PINT, TO, XA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2ce69e4f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009